

REMARKS

Summary of Status of Amendments

In the present amendment, claims 5, 7, 12, 13, and 20-22 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein and without expressing any agreement or acquiescence with the rejections of these claims set forth in the Office Action. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 15, which have been allowed by the previous Office Action, remain pending.

In the present amendment, without acquiescing to the propriety of the outstanding rejections, Applicants have canceled all claims not previously allowed. Applicants submit that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

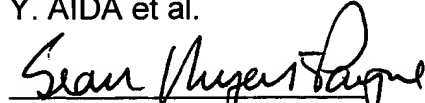
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of this application.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully request Allowance of the application with an early mailing date of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or questions, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Y. AIDA et al.



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